

Eastern Iowa Center For Problem Gambling, Inc.
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Please submit the following concerns and follow up suggestions to and for the Government Oversight Committee members concerning the Gambling Treatment Program on behalf of EICFPG, Inc.

Most currently, EICFPG, Inc. has twice, in 2006, been denied the Transitional Housing contract and funding for eastern Iowa. As the only entity who submitted a proposal each time, my concerns are multiple;

1. Oversight committee notes dated September 20, 2005 indicate a need for stated services and that “ members suggest a more proactive effort than the RFP process “. Also stated was “ a subcommittee will be established to monitor this area”.

Q. Has such a committee been established and if so who are the members? And how can I access their input?

**I have appealed the initial denial of transitional housing contract and plan to appeal the second denial. Hearing is set for late October 2006

Q. If IDPH is truly interested in the eastern region of Iowa providing such housing, why was it denied when only one entity was pursuing the contract?

Q. What will happen to the proposed 132,000.00 appropriated for that contract?

I would be most interested in providing a copy of the Transitional Housing RFP contract and discussing discrepancies found throughout the conditions and scoring process.

Other concerns I would like to voice on behalf of the gambling treatment program are;

1. Currently, this provider has not seen a budget for FY 2007, which begins Oct. 1, 2006 (late start to FY due to recinding and re-application of all proposals)
2. No signed contracts to date with IDPH
3. No carry-over per IDPH, yet 100,000. was available in Spring '06
4. In FY 2005, IDPH was questioned regarding 1.5 million carry-over. To date there is nothing in writing explaining where those gambling funds were dispersed.

Q. In September 20, 2005, the oversight committee requested additional information from the department as to the funding: Has IDPH been held accountable for those funds and where did they go?

Q. Since those funds were from FY 2005, and an additional 1 million carry-over from FY 2006 should be available, where is the dispersement ? (to date, current program(s) are being denied reimbursement for services already provided due to lack of funds.)

Another concern is that with the expansion of licenses for gambling in Iowa and a cap placed on gambling treatment funding, if and when needed, does the possiblilty exist to request increased capping. (Keep in mind that a 6 million dollar cap for GTP is in actuality 4.3 remaining for services after 1.690,000. is dispersed to substance abuse programs.) A provider will assumably expand it's locations, staffing and overhead requirements with growth of gambling venues, but has been no increased funding

available to contract budgets. Additionally, there has never been a release of information regarding funds deposited into the gambling treatment fund from those individuals who voluntarily excluded themselves from casino venues. Have there never been such deposits?

My fear is that gambling treatment programs who which to expand to meet and improve the need of services, with gambling expansion, cannot. The GTP will remain stagnant with 4.3 million for services and the inability to grow to meet the needs of Iowans.

Only with the assistance of the Government Oversight Committee members can services and adequate funding for gambling treatment truly become available for Iowa residents.

Respectfully,

Janet R. Meisenbach, Director
EICFPG, Inc.